

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: State Water Resources Control Board
3. Brief Description of Program:

The California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) was created to fulfill the State Legislature's mandate for a unifying program that would coordinate all water quality monitoring conducted by the State and Regional Water Boards. SWAMP's mission is to provide resource managers, decision makers, and the public with timely information to evaluate the condition of surface waters throughout California. SWAMP accomplishes this through carefully designed, externally reviewed monitoring programs, and by assisting other entities statewide in the generation of comparable data that can be brought together in integrated assessments that provide answers to current management questions.
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program:

The SWAMP's core implementation priorities for the next five years are outlined below:

Statewide & Regional Monitoring & Assessment:

 - Implement statewide and regional monitoring programs
 - Guide development of assessment tools that transform data into information on beneficial use support in all state waters.
 - Apply these assessment tools to monitoring data gathered by SWAMP and others to produce timely, high-quality information for resource management.
 - Improve and strengthen SWAMP (via coordination, partnerships, peer review, training, funding, etc.) so that it fulfills its monitoring and assessment goals at statewide and regional scales.

Internal and External Coordination of Monitoring and Assessment

 - Engage Water Board regulatory and assessment programs to integrate SWAMP monitoring designs, data, and assessment tools into regional and statewide programs.
 - Coordinate with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC) to prioritize waterbody types and beneficial uses that SWAMP is responsible for assessing and collaborate with and provide guidance to partner organizations that assess those waterbody types and beneficial uses that are not assessed by SWAMP. Lead the CWQMC work groups on fish consumption safety and stream/lake/river ecosystem health, and develop the web portals to make data and assessments available to decision makers and the public.

Continue Development of Infrastructure and Tools for Standardization and Data Comparability

 - Implement Quality Assurance and Data Management Programs to support SWAMP statewide and regional monitoring programs, and to provide tools for partners to produce comparable data.
 - Implement the SWAMP statewide assessment framework and standards for data comparability, that allow local entities to both contribute data to statewide assessments and view the results of those assessments as context for local monitoring and management.
5. Timeline for Program Objectives:

SWAMP updated its 10-year strategy to outline the priorities for the next five years. The strategy is available online at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/reports/2010_swamp_strat_full_report_append.pdf
6. Current Status of Program:

Currently SWAMP conducts statewide monitoring programs:

 - Bioassessment Monitoring Program in perennial, wadeable streams (this program includes reference condition monitoring and management),

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- Stream Pollution Trends Monitoring Program: sediment toxicity and chemistry monitoring at a network of sites at the bottom of watersheds for status and trends analysis.
- Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program: bioaccumulative constituent (e.g., mercury, PCBs, dioxin, etc.) monitoring in sport fish in lakes, coastal waters, and rivers and streams.

SWAMP also conduct regional monitoring that is managed by staff at the nine Regional Water Boards. Regional monitoring programs are designed to address priorities at the regional level. Strategies for all of the Regional programs are included as an appendix in the SWAMP strategy.

7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program:

SWAMP's annual monitoring budget for both statewide and regional monitoring is approximately \$5M with additional funding for data management, quality assurance, communications, and program management.

9. URL, if a Website is Available:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/

10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program?

SWAMP's monitoring priorities are evaluated annually and adjusted as new information is gained. In addition, SWAMP coordinates with monitoring conducted by other entities (e.g., State and Federal agencies, local agencies, or NGOs) and adjusts monitoring programs to ensure effective and efficient resource allocation. SWAMP's monitoring programs also are adjusted as the overall agency's priorities shift.

11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.